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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/27/2019

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SUBJECT: AMB RICE'S MEETING WITH INCOMING FIRST COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

Classified By: Ambassador Susan E. Rice for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (C) During a brief August 27 meeting with Ambassador Rice, Uruguayan PermRep Jose Luis Cancela, incoming Chair of the First Committee (on disarmament), explained his strong desire to move things forward in the First Committee rather than repeating what has been done in previous years, and to work closely and cooperatively with the U.S. He said he was eager to find common ground in order to increase the number of resolutions adopted by consensus (last year 27 were adopted by consensus and 23 by vote) and to maintain the balance between disarmament and non-proliferation and gain support for initiatives that make progress in both areas. "I am at your disposal," he emphasized, to work together in these efforts.

¶2. (C) Ambassador Rice said that given the approach of the new Administration, the U.S. hopes there will be more latitude for consensus and more texts we can support, and noted her appreciation for Cancela's desire to take an active role in bridging divides and brokering consensus. Cancela said that some of the First Committee resolutions on disarmament, in particular the resolution on multilateralism and disarmament, might have possibilities for movement. He also suggested there might be space to address some new issues, such as nuclear doctrine.

RICE